

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66607

DRAFTED BY: NEA/EGY:GGBROWN

APPROVED BY: NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS

----- 085657

R 182057Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036301

FOL REPEAT OF TOKYO 1884 TO SECSTATE FEB 13

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1884

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, XF, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN AND THE PLO

REF: TOKYO 1702

DEPT PLS PASS TO MINIMIZE POSTS AMMAN, BEIRUT, CAIRO, DAMASCUS
JIDDA AND KUWAIT AS APPROPRIATE

SUMMARY: FONOFF PERMISSION FOR PLO TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT
OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN TOKYO "A LONG WAY OFF" EVEN IF REQUEST
MADE. SOME GESTURE TOWARD PLO, MOST PROBABLY SEMI-OFFICIAL
AUSPEICES, IS LIKELY SOON. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MIDEAST BUREAU DEPDRIGEN MURATA

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AND FIRST MIDEAST DIV DIR WATANABE FOR REGULAR PERIODIC

DISCUSSION OF MIDEAST ISSUES FEBRUARY 13. BOTH EXPRESSED DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF CRUCIAL NATURE SECRETARY'S VISIT AND STRONG HOPE FOR SUCCESS IN HIS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP BASIS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

2. AS FAR AS RELATIONSHIP WITH PLO CONCERNED, MURATA EXPLAINED THAT PRESSURE INCREASES FOR SOME SORT OF GOJ GESTURE TOWARD PALESTINIANS. PRESSURE COMES FROM ARABS THEMSELVES, WHO SEEM TO BE EXPECTING THE INITIATIVE TO COME FROM JAPAN AND IS COMPOUNDED BY MIKI'S NEED TO MAINTAIN SELF IMAGE AS JZMR. ARAB ISSUE HAS BECOME FASHIONABLE AMONG OPPOSITION PARTIES IN DIET. LACK OF POSITION IN LDP TO GOJ RELATIONSHIP WITH PLO (WHICH MAKES PLO QUESTION ALMOST UNIQUE AMONG FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES IN JAPAN) ADDS TO PRESSURE ON MIKI ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE A "PREEMPTIVE" MOVE THAT WILL UNDERCUT OPPOSITION AND SOOTH ARABS. SOME BREATHING SPACE MAY BE PROVIDED BY KISSINER TRIP ENABLING FONOFF TO ARGUE THAT OUTCOME OF SECRETARY'S MISSION SHOULD BE CLEARER BEFORE DECISION MADE ON PRECISE FORM OF GOJ GESTURE. MEANWHILE, WATNABE SAID, FONOFF STUDYING HARD VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES.

3. MURATA EXPLAINED THAT FONOFF DISTINGUISHES CLEARLY BETWEEN TREATMENT ACCORDED A VISITING DELEGATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT OFFICE WITH OFFICIAL STATUS. NOTING THAT PALESTINIANS HAVE HAD PRIVATE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE IN NEW YORK FOR SEVERAL YEARS, HE SAID GOJ PERMISSION FOR THE PLO TO SET UP A PERMANENT AND OFFICIAL PRESENCE IS "A LONG WAY OFF". FONOFF IS, HOWEVER, CONSIDERING WAY OF ARRANGING FOR A LEGITIMATE PRIVATE JAPANESE ORGANIZATION WITH TIES TO THE GOVERNMENT TO INVITE A PLO DELEGATION FOR A VISIT DURING WHICH MEMBERS OF GROUP WOULD HAVE CHANCE TO MEET SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ARABS HAVE DISCOVERED THAT EXTREME RIGHT WING GROUP KIKUSIKAI WHICH INVITED ANWAR ABDEER RAHMAN, HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE IN JAPAN AND HAVE DECIDED TO CANCEL THAT VISIT.

4. MURATA AND WATNABE BOTH EXPRESSED WISH THAT WASHINGTON UNDERSTAND THE PRESSURES FONOFF UNDER AND MOTIVATIONS BEHIND ACTION THAT GOJ, BY FACT THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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MIKI "THINKS HE UNDERSTANDS" MIDDLE EAST, THOUGH HIS GRASP IS INCOMPLETE. FONOFF HAS BEEN EMBARRASSED FOR EXAMPLE BY MIKI STATEMENT THAT ILO JZVIRTUALLY" REPRESENTS PALESTINIANS (REFTEL). MUCH OF LAST WEEK HAS BEEN SPENT IN ISSUING CLARIFICATIONS TO JORDANIANS AND OTHERS EITHER UPSET OR ELATED BY REMARK.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT FONOFF APPROACH

WILL PREVAIL OVER PRIME MINISTER'S ENTHUSIASMS. FONOFF'S
CURRENT THINKING ON APPROACH TO PLO, WHICH BEARS SOME
RESEMBLANCE TO ROJ TREATMENT OF PRG, MAY BE OVERTAKEN BY
WHAT MURATA DESCRIBES, ONLY HALF IN JEST, AS A "MIKI
SHOCK". FONOFF SEEMS ANXIOUS IN ANY CASE TO SOFTEN
IMPACT OF FUTURE GOJ MOVES BY KEEPING USG INFORMED OF
ITS THINKING.
HODGSON UNQTE MAW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE036301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/EGY:GGBROWN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750058-0671
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750234/aaaabess.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TOKYO 1702
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPAN AND THE PLO
TAGS: PFOR, XF, JA, PLO
To: AMMAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006